

Regular Session of the Board of County Commissioners for the County of St. Joseph, State of Michigan, was held in the Commissioners' Room, Courthouse at the Village of Centreville, Michigan on April 21, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Robin Baker called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Shaffer.

The Pledge to the American Flag was given.

The Clerk, Pattie S. Bender, called the roll and the following Commissioners were present:

Rick Shaffer
Michael D. Dunlap
Jerry Ware

Gerald E. Loudenslager
Robin Baker

Absent: David J. Puschel and John L. Dobberteen

Also present were Judy West-Wing, Administrator/Controller and Elishia Arver, Human Resource Director.

AGENDA

Vice-Chairman Baker stated that a request to fill the Parks and Recreation Secretary's position be added to the agenda.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Shaffer that the minutes for April 7, 2009 be approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Update, April 10, 2009; April 17, 2009.
2. Resolution from Allegan County, Re: Supporting the use of economic stimulus monies for the State of Michigan Survey and Remonumentation Program.
3. Resolution from Oceana County, Re: Requesting Legislature to implement a plan to improve Michigan roads and highways.
4. Resolution from Lenawee County, Re: Opposing Senate Resolution H (limit the increase of taxable values.)
5. Minutes of the Commission on Aging Board meeting of March 18, 2009.
6. Minutes of the Southwest Michigan Substance Abuse Advisory Council meeting of March 16, 2009.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the communications be accepted and placed on file. Motion carried.

FRIEND OF THE COURT ANNUAL REPORT

William Thistlethwaite, Friend of the Court, presented the 2008 Friend of the Court Annual Report. He stated that in 2008 divorce filings were up; collections were down; and support reviews doubled. St. Joseph County is 5th in the State in collections.

The state-wide average is for every \$1.00 spent, \$6.35 is saved in welfare costs and in St. Joseph County for every \$1.00, \$13.49 is saved.

There were 278 support reviews in 2008 and he predicts 500+ this year.

In 2007 they received \$5,000 in unemployment benefits that went towards support and in 2008 that figure increased to \$60,000. He suspects that they will receive \$100,000 this year.

His staff is taking a sampling of 500 of their cases to find out why they are not paying.

Following are the top reasons for not paying support: the payor could not be located; the payor refused to pay; the payor has no high school education; the payor is a felon; the payor is incarcerated; the payor has no parenting time; the payor has no driver license; the payor has substance abuse issues; the payor is disabled.

They have referred clients to Michigan Works! concerning employment and have also encouraged those without a high school diploma to seek it through the GED Program.

Mr. Thistlethwaite stated that their funding is in good shape and should be better in 2009.

The stimulus will reinstate the 2007 funds that the State has been paying to the counties even though the federal monies were not received.

Commissioners Dunlap, Loudenslager and Shaffer commended Mr. Thistlethwaite on the good job that he does.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the 2008 Friend of the Court Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008

Bradley Balk, Sheriff, presented the 2008 Annual Report for the Sheriff's Department. He remarked that Kitty Buchner at the Sheriff's Department should be commended for putting the report together. He stated that the new administration is very busy.

Mr. Balk stated that the complaints were up in 2008 compared to 2007. Criminal Sexual Conduct arrests were up as were domestic assaults.

The Sheriff's Department handles 29% of the complaints in the County.

The Commission on Aging now uses Canteen for the meals which includes a lot of inmate labor. It has been a good experience. They served 165,622 meals in 2008.

The complaints in the Marine Patrol Division were up in 2008.

Mr. Balk also included in his report a separate report for the Village of Centreville and Fabius Township. Both entities having contracts with the County for law enforcement services.

The communications at the Sheriff's Department are great and everything is going smoothly. He hopes to have a better vision for the future next year.

In response to a question, Mr. Balk stated that the move to 12 hours shifts has been working very well. Ticket rates are up, the morale is greatly improved and everyone seems happy with the change.

Commissioner Dunlap remarked that it was a good report.

Mr. Balk stated that a lot of inmate labor is used throughout the communities in the County and this is coordinated by the Corrections Officers.

Commissioner Shaffer stated that it was a good report and asked Mr. Balk about the methamphetamine issues in the County. Mr. Balk responded that the arrests were down because a lot of officers were out on medical leave and officers from the SCAN were pulled from their duties to help cover the road patrol.

Commissioner Dunlap commented that the forfeitures were down.

Mr. Balk stated that because of methamphetamine issues and new laws, the clean up is almost cost prohibitive and there are liability issues involved also.

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that he is doing a great job and Commissioner Ware commended Mr. Balk and his staff.

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the 2008 Sheriff's Department Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried.

EQUALIZATION REPORT

Judy Nelson, Equalization Director, presented the 2009 Equalization Report. She remarked that she thought that the meeting that she had last week with the Executive Committee was very productive and will lead to a future meeting with the entire Board.

She stated that several months ago she was asked to serve as part of a panel formed by the State Treasury Department consisting of Treasury personnel, State Tax Commission, State Assessors Board, Regional Field Representatives, a County Administrator and Equalization Directors. Their goal is to come up with an evaluation process to assess the quality of work at the county equalization level.

Mrs. Nelson stated that every year she presents for adoption, by the Board, 3 reports: Equalization, Taxable Value and Apportionment reports believing that no one really understands the reports. Few people understand the process.

She spoke to the St. Joseph County Association of Realtors for over an hour on state equalized and taxable values.

She was invited by Sturgis Bank and Trust to speak on Senate Joint Resolution H which is a bill limiting the increase of taxable value.

The Michigan Association of Counties also invited her to speak on the Principal Residence Exemption enforcement process and its success.

Next year she will be building an educational program for MAC to try to put into layman's terms what equalization is, who reports to who and what happens when it does not work.

She invited the Commissioners to visit her office to get an explanation of the process.

She stated that there are no factors and does not believe that the State will have any either.

The Taxable Value Report will be compiled in a few weeks. Mrs. Nelson also stated that each year one unit of government is randomly picked for evaluation by the State Tax Commission. Each year the state chooses a county within each region to review and this year it is St. Joseph County. All 18 units will be evaluated for compliance or non-compliance of their assessment practices.

The 2009 Equalization Report follows:

PERSONAL AND REAL PROPERTY

TOWNSHIP OR CITY	ACRES 100THS	TOTAL REAL PROPERTY VALUATIONS		PERSONAL PROPERTY VALUATIONS		TOTAL REAL PLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY	
		ASSESS. VALUE	EQUALIZED VALUE	ASSESSED VALUE	EQUALIZED VAUE	ASSESSED VALUE	EQUALIZED VALUE
BURR OAK	21.90	\$86,633,100	\$86,633,100	\$2,489,600	\$2,489,600	\$89,122,700	\$89,122,700
COLON	21.03	\$150,286,000	\$150,286,000	\$4,263,800	\$4,263,800	\$154,549,800	\$154,549,800
CONSTANTINE	20.98	\$126,130,400	\$126,130,400	\$21,975,200	\$21,975,200	\$148,105,600	\$148,105,600
FABIUS	20.10	\$231,321,000	\$231,321,000	\$6,268,700	\$6,268,700	\$237,589,700	\$237,589,700
FAWN RIVER	12.26	\$49,977,442	\$49,977,442	\$689,300	\$689,300	\$50,666,742	\$50,666,742
FLORENCE	21.39	\$56,257,700	\$56,257,700	\$1,455,100	\$1,455,100	\$57,712,800	\$57,712,800
FLOWERFIELD	22.79	\$68,121,829	\$68,121,829	\$4,969,307	\$4,969,307	\$73,091,136	\$73,091,136
LEONIDAS	22.65	\$56,614,700	\$56,614,700	\$1,050,500	\$1,050,500	\$57,665,200	\$57,665,200

	AGRICULTURE	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	RESIDENTIAL	DEVELOP- MENTAL	TOTAL REAL PROPERTY
MOTTVILLE	\$14,417,900	\$2,878,500	\$9,817,600	\$31,886,100		\$59,000,100
NOTTAWA	\$36,748,000	\$16,804,500	\$249,200	\$106,792,650		\$160,594,350
PARK	\$34,053,100	\$5,141,734	\$7,089,800	\$87,220,000		\$133,504,634
SHERMAN	\$21,409,100	\$1,818,500	\$187,000	\$135,622,900		\$159,037,500
STURGIS	\$15,772,800	\$12,798,400	\$2,881,500	\$35,897,200	\$415,200	\$67,765,100
WHITE PIGEON	\$17,079,800	\$12,032,800	\$9,143,000	\$173,758,900		\$212,014,500
STURGIS CITY	\$645,300	\$55,972,200	\$53,496,300	\$142,857,550		\$252,971,350
THREE RIVERS	\$0	\$76,169,750	\$33,972,000	\$81,660,500		\$191,802,250
	\$394,049,336	\$217,093,364	\$157,098,990	\$1,521,511,465	\$415,200	\$2,290,168,355

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Shaffer that the 2009 Equalization Report be adopted.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 5 - Commissioners Shaffer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker and Ware.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 2 - Commissioners Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Report adopted.

CAMPGROUND ATTENDANT AGREEMENT WITH RODNEY AND LINDA MILLS

Ms. West-Wing stated that this is the 2nd year for the Mills' being attendants at Cade Lake and recommended approval of the agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the Campground Attendant Agreement with Rodney and Linda Mills be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 5 - Commissioners Shaffer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker and Ware.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 2 - Commissioners Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

Ms. West-Wing stated that a request has been received from Tim Schuler, Jail Administrator, for himself and 3 other employees to attend a 5 day Direct Supervision Jail Management workshop in Louisville, Kentucky.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the request from the Jail Administrator for 4 employees to attend a workshop in Kentucky be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 5 - Commissioners Shaffer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker and Ware.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 2 - Commissioners Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

PARK PROPERTY PURCHASE

Ms. West-Wing stated that a few meetings ago the Commissioners met in closed session to discuss park property purchase. After that session an offer was made and accepted. It is for 11.5 acres of property adjacent to Meyer-Broadway Park for \$48,000 plus closing costs.

In responding to a question, John Pence, Park and Recreation Director, stated that the house and some out buildings will need to be demolished but the 60' x 30' barn will remain on the property.

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Ware that the park property purchase be approved for \$48,000 plus closing costs.

Commissioner Dunlap commented that the money for this purchase will not be general fund monies but rather monies from a fund that includes only money donated by Waste Management for park capital.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 5 - Commissioners Shaffer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker and Ware.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 2 - Commissioners Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

VACANT SECRETARY POSITION AT PARKS AND RECREATION

Ms. West-Wing stated that there is a vacant 20 hour/week secretary's position at Parks and Recreation and Mr. Pence is requesting that this position be filled.

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the vacant secretary's position at the Parks and Recreation Department be filled. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 7-2009
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN
TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS AND PROMISES AND FULLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY RESTORE
STATE REVENUE SHARING
FOR ALL MICHIGAN'S 83 COUNTIES

Commissioner Loudenslager presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties represents all 83 counties in the State of Michigan and the counties of Michigan work on behalf of the State of Michigan to provide numerous state mandated services; and

WHEREAS, counties depend heavily upon state revenue sharing to provide numerous essential public health, safety and welfare services; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the State of Michigan and the Michigan Association of Counties demand an efficient, professional level of public service; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 State Revenue Sharing payments were discontinued to counties, relieving the State Budget of \$183 million in annual State Revenue Sharing payments to counties, with the promise and agreement that these payments would be restored when each of the individual counties' Revenue Sharing Reserve Funds were exhausted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners does hereby support and urge the State of Michigan to fulfill its obligations and promises and fully and unconditionally restore State Revenue Sharing for all Michigan's 83 counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Jennifer Granholm, Senator Cameron Brown, Representative Matthew Lori, and the Michigan Association Counties.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the resolution be adopted and 2nd reading waived.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 5 - Commissioners Shaffer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker and Ware.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 2 - Commissioners Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-2009
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ADEQUATE STATE FUNDING TO HOLD COUNTIES HARMLESS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES LAWSUIT SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Commissioner Loudenslager presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan, Department of Human Services was sued by Children's Rights regarding the care of children in foster care and juvenile justice; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services settled the case out-of-court without consent or consultation from Michigan's counties; and

WHEREAS, Michigan counties are the funding source for one-half of the costs of foster care and juvenile justice services in the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the settlement agreement between the Department of Human Services and Children's Rights would require Michigan's counties to pay, without their consent, up to \$32,000,000 per year statewide in *calculable costs*, with additional county costs evident that are not able to be calculated; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's counties face staggering cuts to services across the board due to declining property tax base, state funding cuts to support mandated services, increasing responsibilities eliminated from the state government being forced to counties, and increasing state regulation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners urges the legislature and the Governor to hold counties harmless from the increased County Child Care Fund expenses associated with the agreement reached between the Department of Human Services and Children's Rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to Governor Jennifer Granholm, Senator Cameron Brown, Representative Matthew Lori, and the Michigan Association of Counties for their consideration and action.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the resolution be adopted and 2nd reading waived.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 5 - Commissioners Shaffer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker and Ware.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 2 - Commissioners Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Resolution adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Vice-Chairman Baker stated that there was a meeting with Community Mental Health and the Jail Administration regarding mental health services for inmates. There will be more information coming.

Judiciary

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that there was no report.

Physical Resources

Commissioner Dunlap stated that there had been no meeting of the committee.

Executive Committee

Vice-Chairman Baker stated that every one has a copy of the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on April 17, 2009 and he would answer any questions that anyone may have.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

MISCELLANEOUS:

Sue Eickhoff, Judicial Secretary/Recorder, was on medical leave from April 6 to April 16, 2009 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

Penny Hayes, COA Finance Clerk, was on medical leave from April 2 to April 7, 2009 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

Joan Burkett, COA In-home Services Aide, is on medical leave commencing March 23, 2009 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

TEMPORARY/SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT:

Rodney Mills has been hired as seasonal Cade Lake Park Caretaker at \$7.75/hr. effective April 28, 2009.

Linda Mills has been hired as seasonal Cade Lake Park Office at \$7.75/hr. effective April 28, 2009.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the personnel report be approved. Motion carried.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

FROM APPROPRIATION:

\$14,000.00 from Soil Conservation Appropriation to Soil Conservation Fund.

\$8,000.00 from Soil Conservation – Soil Erosion Appropriation to Soil Conservation – Soil Erosion Fund.

\$22,500.00 from DHS Child Care Appropriation to DHS Child Care Fund.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

INCREASE DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND REVENUE

Line item 265-254-676.000 (Budgeted Use of Fund Balance) \$ 2,423.08

INCREASE DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND EXPENDITURE:

Line item 265-254-816.000 (Contractual Services) \$ 1,000.00

Line item 265-254-728.000 (Printing) \$ 1,423.08

Please consider the following amendments to the 2008 budget:

GENERAL FUND:

INCREASE:

DECREASE:

Probate Child Care Appropriation	\$14,000.00 Operating	\$14,000.00 Contingency
Juvenile	\$12,300.00 Operating	\$12,300.00 Contingency
Prosecutor	\$ 1,300.00 Operating	\$ 1,300.00 Contingency
Building & Grounds	\$ 5,300.00 Operating	\$ 5,300.00 Contingency
Marine Safety Patrol	\$ 800.00 Operating	\$ 800.00 Contingency
Veterans Affairs	\$ 650.00 Operating	\$ 650.00 Contingency
Forfeiture & Foreclosure Fund	\$40,000.00 Revenue	\$40,000.00 Operating

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the budget adjustments be approved. Motion carried.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following reports:

BILLS

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>PAYROLL</u>
Due from State	\$ 6,339.53	\$
Appropriations	55,009.25	
County Commission	5,493.65	6,482.62
Circuit Court	8,208.75	13,448.38
District Court	1,910.32	63,088.40
Friend of the Court	5,586.95	39,582.64
Jury Commission	101.40	
Probate Court	438.30	19,694.40
Juvenile Branch	15,855.52	39,065.42
Adult Probation	585.45	
Appeals Court	2,175.19	
Administration	562.49	9,754.42
Finance Department	1,039.22	13,105.84
County Clerk		22,355.51
Equalization Department	550.45	14,205.31
Human Resources	10.00	6,326.94
Geographic Information Systems	120.00	6,896.32
Prosecutor's Office	3,233.34	34,318.72
Central Services	24,257.26	5,457.12
Register of Deeds	172.60	13,316.16
County Treasurer	293.99	15,095.78
Cooperative Extension	2,178.50	8,298.17
Information Technology	5,944.33	12,066.24
Buildings & Grounds	15,061.36	14,152.92
Courts Building Security		8,766.58
Drain Commission	198.99	5,268.83

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>PAYROLL</u>
Sheriff Department	\$ 12,296.61	\$ 92,161.30
Sheriff Reserves	520.00	
Marine Patrol	25.00	209.92
Jail & Turnkey	26,059.80	98,644.48
Planning Commission	2,587.65	
Emergency Services	704.61	5,514.10
Animal Control	3,478.65	10,220.13
Board of Public Works		667.17
Medical Examiners	600.00	
Child Care - Probate	4,394.81	
Department of Veterans' Affairs	900.00	
Veterans' Services		1,621.06
Utilities & General Services	<u>43,332.83</u>	
Total	\$ 250,226.80	\$ 579,784.88
<u>OTHER FUNDS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>PAYROLL</u>
County Road Commission	\$ 373,222.47	\$
Parks & Recreation	858.22	7,616.35
Emergency 911 Service	65,899.22	50,751.52
Central Dispatch - Wireless	893.36	4,250.34
Meyer Broadway/Coon Hollow Park	1,139.94	2,253.55
Family Counseling	240.00	
Cade Lake Park	693.39	
Waste Management Fund		
County Commission	45,000.00	
Traffic Safety Program Fund	25.91	
Economic Development Fund	5,845.54	7,883.58
Victims' Rights Advocate Fund	159.91	3,195.61
Community Corrections Advisory Board	5,691.67	2,896.46
Community Corrections Program	2,948.21	81.42
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	1,463.48	
Law Enforcement Fund	868.64	12,709.14
Secondary Road Patrol		8,876.35
Homeland Security Grant Fund	1,362.89	
Law Library Fund	958.49	
Principal Residence Denial Fund		667.77
Commission on Aging	55,128.81	57,420.72
Sheriff's Justice Training Fund	295.00	
Child Care - Probate Court	33,524.54	3,592.58
Veterans' Trust Fund	2,209.76	
Facilities Maintenance Fund	7,507.50	
Forfeiture & Foreclosure Fund	8,926.84	
Tax Payment Fund	14,732.40	
Inmate Store	3,252.44	
Three Rivers Community Center	3,200.86	797.74
Long Lake Level Revolving Fund	5.49	
Flexible Benefits Insurance Fund	<u>163,595.24</u>	
Total	\$ 799,650.22	\$ 162,993.13
Grand Total	\$ 1,049,877.02	\$ 742,778.01

General Fund Operating Expenditures		
Pre-Authorized	\$128,255.25	
Accounts Payable	<u>121,971.55</u>	
		\$ 250,226.80
General Fund Payroll Expenditures		\$ 579,784.88
Other Funds Operating Expenditures		
Pre-authorized	\$764,879.04	
Accounts Payable	<u>34,771.18</u>	
		\$ 799,650.22
Other Funds Payroll Expenditures		\$ <u>162,993.13</u>
Total Recorded for the Month		\$ 1,792,655.03

It was moved by Commissioner Shaffer and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the bills be approved for payment. Motion carried.

PER DIEM

Robin Baker – 10 half days 3/20, 3/31, 4/1, 4/2, 4/7, 4/13 x 2, 4/14, 4/16 & 4/17/09 & 5 full days 3/23, 3/26, 3/27, 4/15 & 4/20/09	\$ 975.00
Michael Dunlap – 7 half days 3/26, 3/30, 4/1, 4/3, 4/14, 4/16 & 4/17/09 & 2 full days 3/18 & 3/27/09	540.00
Gerald Loudenslager – 4 half days 3/30, 4/8, 4/11 & 4/16/09	200.00
Rick Shaffer – 3 half days 2/18, 2/25 & 3/25/09 & 3 full days 2/26, 3/16 & 3/26/09	435.00
Jerry Ware – 4 half days 3/21, 3/30, 4/1 & 4/21/09	<u>200.00</u>
	\$2,350.00

EXPENSES

Robin Baker	\$ 463.10
Michael Dunlap	191.40
Gerald Loudenslager	43.45
Rick Shaffer	155.10
Jerry Ware	<u>49.50</u>
	\$ 902.55

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the per diem and expenses be approved. Motion carried.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR'S AGREEMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the motion to table the Independent Contractor's Agreement at the last meeting be removed from the table. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the Independent Contractor's Agreement with Douglas A. Brousseau for Equalization Study Field Work be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 5 - Commissioners Shaffer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker and Ware.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 2 - Commissioners Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vice-Chairman Baker stated that the Clerk had an announcement to make.

Ms. Bender stated that the Supreme Court will be in Centreville on May 13th for a hearing that will be held in the Commissioners' Room at 2:00 p.m. Prior to that at 11:30 a.m. at the Sturges Young Auditorium there will be a luncheon with the Supreme Court Justices. The Bar Association will be commemorating Law Day and will award the Liberty Bell Award. She has tickets for sale for the luncheon for \$15.00.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Pat Hjertos, 30189 Michigan Avenue, Leonidas was present to speak about the citizens group that has been formed in Leonidas Township in opposition to the huge dairy farm operation that has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. They are looking for people and money to support their endeavor. She gave the Administrator some literature to distribute to the Commissioners. She stated that there would be a meeting at the Leonidas Township Grange on Thursday evening for anyone that is interested in attending.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioners Dunlap that the Board go into closed session to discuss AFSCME negotiations.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 5 - Commissioners Shaffer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker and Ware.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 2 - Commissioners Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

OPEN SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the Administrator be authorized to proceed as discussed in closed session. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until May 4, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

Robin Baker, Vice-Chairman